

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Maria Carolina Monterrosa Salinas
Project title	From turtle hunters to conservation allies: A first step in community based conservation in the Magdalena area, Colombian Caribbean. Colombia-Sur America.
RSG reference	42.02.10
Reporting period	June - November 2010
Amount of grant	£11,525
Your email address	monterrosac@gmail.com – carolina.monterrosa@colombiamarina.org
Date of this report	22.01.2011

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To involve community in conservation			X	The participation of fishermen committee was active and constant. The interaction with the research team in their daily activities, make them feel part of the process and create a co-worker feeling that open their mind to next year's work.
To launch the environmental education programme in the area			X	The study area has been a social and politically difficult region in the country. The environmental aspect has been forgotten for many years and began to change the children's indifference was not an easy thing. Change paradigms and believes is a long way, but this year we began.
To identify alternatives activities			X	Due to social and political situation in the area, the women and young people is used to receive without any effort. So, to create other strategy, which hold their interest and become a possible lucrative activity, was our major challenge looking for sustainability.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The absence of turtle nests in the beginning of the project didn't allow us to pay the fishermen for the night patrols, which was our first strategy to involve them. So, thinking how to make them participants but not to spend the money in something would not beneficiate the project, we developed the scheme used, improving fishing gear, campsites and commercialisation conditions .

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. Better commercialisation conditions for fishermen committee: One of the challenges in the community based conservation is to make the strategy sustainable. This means, to find a way within the third actor is not necessary in order to continue protecting the resource. In our case, we need to improve the income and payment circumstances in their principal activity, and so, don't harvest the nests and females. This year, Colombia Marina looked for new allies in this strategy, like restaurants and hotels from the project area and near cities. These partners are Restaurante EL Chef del Mar in Santa Marta City and Aviatur Hotel from Tayrona Park, which agree buy the committee capture, if they participate in an active form in our protection project. The fishermen are happy and motivated, they know the turtles are

on the beach 6 months only, and if they protect them, they can sell the fish all over the year, having their income sure for their necessities.

2. Children and young people motivated group: Community based conservation has an essential element looking for long time results, environmental education. To change the concepts and behaviour of adults people expend so much time and it is financial and logistically demanding and many times with little impact. On the other hand, to submerge the young people in the conservation world and sustainable use of natural resource results much more efficient. They are open mind to these ideas and they are developing their behaviours and life style. This year education strategy obtained a wonderful participation from the community and neighbouring areas children and young people, who are expecting us the next year in order to continue their learning and fun afternoons in the project base.

3. Recycled Paper Office: To find an alternative activity which hold the interest of the community's women and motivate them, to make it a possible income generator was not an easy subject. We had to look for an activity with low price in the production and high commercialisation possibilities with a good price. The recycled paper handicrafts was our first option, making two workshops of 15 days duration each. We were lucky, they love it, and the products have been commercialised in the project base, taking advantage of the touristic flow in the area. This situation make the women continued working by themselves, bringing the products to the house for sale. They have expressed their will to continue the activity this year, thinking in the possibility of open a place to commercialize their products and others, like artisanal wine and exotic flowers produced by community members.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The involvement of local communities has been evident. The study area has a difficult social, political and economic situation. There are not meeting places for adults or kids, the community integration is low and the children have grown in this individualism model. The project became a place where the kids get involved, an interaction possibility for the women in a different activity, a reference for teachers if they need help in the ecological area and more important, a community based conservation model unknown until now, and which they have liked so far.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. This is the fourth year working in the area, even though the first with community based conservation, the people know us and our job. The effort of these years is evident now; the response of the fishermen committee, and the community participation, adults and children is a green light to continue. The next year the project will conserve the same action lines: fishermen committee, environmental education and alternatives activities. The idea is to strengthen each one, looking for build up consolidated units that together make a sustainable chain.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

After finish the project in the last days of November 2010, the project team made a socialisation results meeting with community and school staff in the area. Besides, this year Colombia Marina launched its website, like a results dissemination tool and a communication strategy, where

everybody is able to access to the project images and final report. In addition, this year is going to be the 31th Sea Turtles International Symposium in San Diego , California, USA and we applied to a oral presentation to share with sea turtles researchers all over the world, these 4 years working in Colombian Caribbean, counting with Rufford Foundation grants three of them.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The project was executed from June 15th to November 27th 2010. The length of the project was the anticipated one but beginning 3 months later.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

1£= \$1900

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Subsistence Payments	£4500	£1200	£3300	The budgeted money for the 3 Field Assistants (£3300), was inverted in the “Involving the fishermen” component.
Equipment	£1320	£960	£360	Because of the low nesting activity, the field supplies were not bought and this money (£360) was invested in environmental education.
Consumables: Alternative Activities.	£1676	£1376	£300	The budgeted money for office and field supplies (£300) was invested in environmental education.
Travel / Transport	£3318	£3318	£0	
Dissemination expenses	£710	£610	£100	The £100 budgeted for final report was invested in environmental education.
Involving the Fishermen	0	£3300		This money was saved from subsistence payments for the fishermen and invested in the “Fishing gear, improvement of campsite and commercialisation conditions.”
Environmental Education	0	£760		This money was saved from the items involving turtle’s field activities and invested in the materials for the strengthened children activities in the field station and schools.
Total	£11524	£11524	0	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

To continue the work, strengthening the action lines and looking for sustainability. We have to reinforce the tools we developed this year trying to give the fishermen more confidence in the new income model to get their total compromise with the turtles and us. The environmental education with them is going to continue, talking in the mornings, showing them the impact of their actions, if they protect the resource in the same intensity they exploited. About children and community activities, we are going to continue the work, targeting the kids and young people and looking for establish the commerce of the products made by the women and single mothers.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes. The web page and the poster in the project house have the RSGF logo. As well, all the printed material used in environmental education like schools texts and power point presentations have the RSGF logo.

11. Any other comments?

Thanks. Without your support, the continuity of this work would have been very difficult, and the results and projection of this conservation way, will not be the same.